

12-Month Finding on a Petition To Downlist Three San Clemente Island Plant Species; Proposed Rule To Reclassify Two San Clemente Island Plant Species; Taxonomic Correction

About the Document

Title: 12-Month Finding on a Petition to Downlist *Malacothamnus clementinus*, *Acmispon dendroideus* var. *traskiae*, and *Castilleja grisea*, and a Proposed Rule to Reclassify *A. d.* var. *traskiae* and *C. grisea* as Threatened.

Subject and Purpose: This document announces the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) 12-month finding on a petition to reclassify San Clemente Island lotus, and San Clemente Island paintbrush under the Endangered Species Act (Act) are warranted and proposes to change the status of these species from endangered to threatened. The Service proposes to correct the scientific and common names of San Clement Island lotus. The Service also announces its 12-month finding on a petition to reclassify San Clemente Island bush mallow is not warranted at this time, and therefore does not propose to change the status of this species.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of review: Letter.

Number of reviewers: The peer review process included written requests and confirmation from four species and/or habitat experts to conduct peer review of the upcoming proposed rule, followed by individual letters mailed to the experts requesting their review upon publication of the proposed rule on May 16, 2012.

Reviewer Expertise: Primary expertise needed for the review is familiarity with the life history, threats and habitat requirements of these three endangered plants (botanists).

Selection of Peer Reviewer: The Service selected peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter and lack of any conflicts of interest as described in the Office of Management Peer Review Guidelines.

Management of Peer Review: The peer review is being managed by the Service.

About Public Participation

Opportunities for the Public: The proposed rule has a public comment period from May 16, 2012 through July 16, 2012 and identifies specific information requested from the public. Public comments are to be submitted by hard copy to the Service (Division of Policy and Directives Management) or electronically through www.regulations.gov.

Contact: Anna Braswell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, anna_braswell@fws.gov or 760-431-9440, extension 203.

